Numb. CCCXXXV.

# The SPECTATOR.

*Respicere exemplar vitæ morumque jubebo*
*Doctum imitatorem, & veras hinc ducere voces.* Hor.

*Tuesday, March* 25. 1712.

My Friend Sir Roger de Coverly, when we last met together at the Club, told me, that he had a great mind to see the new Tragedy with me, assuring me at the same time, that he had not been at a Play these twenty Years. The last I saw, says Sir Roger, was the *Committee*, which I should not have gone to neither, had not I been told before-hand that it was a good Church of *England* Comedy. He then proceeded to enquire of me who this Distrest Mother was, and upon hearing that she was *Hector*'s Widow, he told me that her Husband was a brave Man, and that when he was a School-Boy he had read his Life at the end of the Dictionary. My Friend asked me, in the next place, if there would not be some danger in coming home late, in case the *Mohocks* should be Abroad. I assure you, says he, I thought I had fallen into their Hands last Night, for I observed two or three lusty black Men that followed me half way up *Fleetstreet*, and mended their pace behind me, in proportion as I put on to get away from them. You must know, continued the Knight with a Smile, I fancied they had a mind to *hunt* me; for I remember an honest Gentleman in my Neighbourhood, who was serv'd such a Trick in King *Charles* the Second's time; for which reason he has not ventur'd himself in Town ever since. I might have shown them very good Sport, had this been their Design, for as I am an old Fox-hunter, I should have turned and doubled, and have played them a thousand Tricks, they had never seen in their Lives before. Sir Roger added, that if these Gentlemen had any such Intention, they did not succeed very well in it, for I threw them out, says he, at the end of *Norfolk-street*, where I doubled the Corner and got shelter in my Lodgings before they could imagine what was become of me. However, says the Knight, if Captain Sentry will make one with us to Morrow Night, and if you will both of you call upon me about four a-Clock, that we may be at the House before it is full, I will have my own Coach in readiness to attend you, for *John* tells me he has got the fore-Wheels mended.

The Captain, who did not fail to meet me there at the appointed Hour, bid Sir Roger fear nothing, for that he had put on the same Sword which he made use of at the Battel of *Steenkirk*. Sir Roger's Servants, and among the rest my old Friend, the Butler, had I found provided themselves with good Oaken Plants, to attend their Master upon this occasion. When we had placed him in his Coach, with my self at his Left Hand, the Captain before him, and his Butler at the head of his Footmen, in the Rear, we convoy'd him in safety to the Play-house; where after having marched up the Entry in good Order, the Captain and I went in with him, and seated him betwixt us in the Pit. As soon as the House was full, and the Candles lighted, my old Friend stood up and looked about him with that Pleasure, which a Mind seasoned with Humanity naturally feels in it self, at the sight of a multitude of People who seem pleased with one another, and partake of the same common Entertainment. I could not but fancy to my self, as the old Man stood up in the middle of the Pit, that he made a very proper Center to a Tragick Audience. Upon the entring of *Pyrrhus*, the Knight told me, that he did not believe the King of *France* himself had a better Strut. I was indeed very attentive to my old Friend's Remarks, because I looked upon them as a piece of Natural Criticism, and was well pleased to hear him at the conclusion of almost every Scene, telling me that he could not imagine how the Play would end. One while he appeared very much concerned for *Andromache*; and a little while after as much for *Hermione*; and was extremely puzzled to think what would become of *Pyrrhus*.

When Sir Roger saw *Andromache*'s obstinate Refusal to her Lover's Importunities, he whispered me in the Ear, that he was sure she would never have him; to which he added, with a more than ordinary Vehemence, You can't imagine, Sir, what 'tis to have to do with a Widow. Upon *Pyrrhus* his threatning afterwards to leave her, the Knight shook his Head, and muttered to himself, Ay, do if you can. This Part dwelt so much upon my Friend's Imagination, that at the close of the Third Act, as I was thinking of something else, he whispered in my Ear, These Widows, Sir, are the most perverse Creatures in the World. But pray, says he, you that are a Critick, is this Play according to your Dramatick Rules, as you call them; Should your People in Tragedy always talk to be understood? Why, there is not a single Sentence in this Play, that I do not know the Meaning of.

The Fourth Act very luckily begun before I had time to give the old Gentleman an Answer; Well, says the Knight, sitting down with great Satisfaction, I suppose we are now to see *Hector*'s Ghost. He then renewed his Attention, and, from time to time, fell a praising the Widow. He made, indeed, a little Mistake as to one of her Pages, whom, at his first entring, he took for *Astyanax*; but he quickly set himself right in that Particular, though, at the same time, he owned he should have been very glad to have seen the little Boy, who, says he, must needs be a very fine Child by the Account that is given of him. Upon *Hermione*'s going off with a Menace to *Pyrrhus*, the Audience gave a loud Clap, to which Sir Roger added, On my Word, a notable young Baggage.

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As there was a very remarkable Silence and Stillneſs during the Action, it was natural for them to take the Opportunity of theſe Intervals between the Acts, to expreſs their Opinion of the Players, and their reſpective Parts. Sir ROGER hearing a Cluſter of them praiſe *Oreſtes*, ſtruck in with them and told them, that he thought his Friend *Pylades* was a very ſenſible Man; As they were afterwards applauding *Pyrrhus*, Sir ROGER put in a ſecond time, And let me tell you, ſays he, though he ſpeaks but little, I like the old Fellow in Whiskers as well as any of them. Captain SENTRY, ſeeing two or three Waggs who ſat near us, lean with an attentive Ear towards Sir ROGER, and fearing leaſt they ſhould Smoak the Knight, pluck'd him by the Elbow, and whiſpered ſomething in his Ear, that laſted till the opening of the Fifth Act. The Knight was wonderfully attentive to the Account which *Oreſtes* gives of *Pyrrhus* his Death, and at the Concluſion of it, told me it was ſuch a bloody piece of Work, that he was glad it was not done upon the Stage. Seeing afterwards *Oreſtes* in his raving Fit, he grew more than ordinarily ſerious, and took Occaſion to moralize (in his way) upon an Evil Conſcience, adding, that *Oreſtes, in his Madneſs, looked as if he ſaw ſomething.*

As we were the firſt that came into the Houſe, ſo we were the laſt that went out of it; being reſolved to have a clear Paſſage for our old Friend, whom we did not care to venture among the juſtling of the Crowd. Sir ROGER went out fully ſatisfied with his Entertainment, and we guarded him to his Lodgings in the ſame manner that we brought him to the Playhouſe; being highly pleaſed, for my own part, not only with the Performance of the Excellent Piece which had been repreſented, but with the Satisfaction which it had given to the good old Man.


*ADVERTISEMENTS.*

## The Sixth Day.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians,

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this preſent Tueſday, the 27th Day of March, will be preſented a new Tragedy call'd, The Diſtreſt Mother. By Her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market, on Thurſday next, being the 27th of March, will be performed an Opera called Hydaſpes, the Part of Dariza to be perform'd by Signor Benedetti Baldaſari, lately arriv'd. For and Boxes to be put together: And no body to be admitted without Tickets; which will be deliver'd out at the Theatre on Wedneſday and Thurſday, at half a Guinea each. To begin exactly at ſix. By her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

By the Deſire of ſeveral Perſons of Quality.

AT Punch's Theatre in the Little Piazza, Covent-Garden, this preſent Tueſday, will be preſented the late New Opera that was by Subſcription, called, The Beauſons Sacrifice, where Punch performs the part of Captain. All the Figures being New, and their Dreſſes agreeable to their Characters. With a new Piece of Machinary after the Britiſh Manner, contrived and juſt finiſhed by Powell, which repreſents a Paradice wonderful Surpriſing. At the breaking of the Clouds ariſe ſeveral Triumphal Arches, which form ſeveral moſt agreeable Proſpects; beautify'd by her moſt Serene Majeſty of Great Britain in her Royal Robes, attended by her Peers and Officers of State; under their Feet are repreſented the Trophies taken from the French and Bavarians by her Majeſty's Arms this War. And a new Prologue ſpoken by Powell in a Punches Dreſs, by way of Antigona, which gives a Deſcription of Punches Family. Beginning exactly at ſix, concluding half an hour after eight. Boxes 2 s. 6d. Pit 1 s. 6 d. No Money to be return'd after the Curtain is Drawn up; Nor any Entrance at the deſcending of the Machines without Paying the full Price.

On Friday next will be Publiſhed,

The Diſtreſt Mother. A Tragedy. As it is acted at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane. By her Majeſty's Servants. Written by Mr. Phillips. Printed for S. Buckley at the Dolphin in Little-Britain, and J. Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over against Catherine ſtreet in the Strand.

Whereas a compleat Courſe of Chymiſtry, conſiſting about 100 Operations, illuſtrated with the proper Schollia, is now performed at the Laboratory of Mr. Edward Bright, Chymiſt in Weſtfryars near Fleetſtreet, to the entire Satisfaction of all the Gentlemen that attended it, this is to give Notice, that another Courſe will be open'd at the ſame Place on the 14th of April next, which will be the laſt this Seaſon, or ſooner, provided the number be compleat; and as ſeveral Gentlemen have already enter'd thoſe that think fit to be preſent at it, are deſired forthwith to give in their Names at the place mentioned, to pay down one Guinea at the ſame time, and another Guinea and a half at the beginning of the Courſe, which are the Terms. In theſe Courſes endeavours are uſed to demonſtrate the Conſtituent parts of each Medicine, their Virtues and Doſes; to which will be added many uſeful Obſervations applicable to the Practice of Phyſick.

To be Sold, the Manors of Southcave and Flaxfleet in Southcave, in the Eaſt-Riding of York, amounting to upwards of 400 l. per Annum. Enquire of Mr. John Greenwood, Attorney in Wood-ſtreet London, or Mr. Fran. Langley in York.

This Day is Publiſhed,

A Full Anſwer to the Conduct of the Allies. To which is added ſome Obſervations on the Remarks on the Barrier-Treaty, by the ſame Author. price 1 s. Sold by J. Baker in Paternoſter Row, where may be had the Conduct of the Duke of Marlborough, during the War, with Original Papers, price 4 s.

This Day continues a Sale of ſcarce and valuable Books in Greek, Latin, French and Engliſh; among which is Hiſtoria Theſaurus, a Vols. Artis Pictoriæ Brud. Academia figuris orneſſus Illuſt. Norb. 1682. Severegii Pandecta Canonum, Bibles in 4 Vols. Cooperi Ling. Rom. Theſaurus Lond. 1578. Raleigh's Hiſtory of the World. Collier's Dict. 2 Vols. Several of the beſt Editions Horace old Elz. Virgil old Elz. Seneca old Elz. 4 Tom. all very with many other valuable Books not mentioned, at Exeter Exchange in the Strand; where may be had ready Money for any Library Books.

The Danger and Folly of Evil Courſes; being Practical Diſcourſes, ſhewing the baſe and vile Nature of Sin the dreadful Conſequences of it, as well in this World, as that is to come; with ſuch effectual Remedies, as is chiefly implied, prevent it, and bring Men to a true Love of God and Religion. Partly extracted from the Writings of Archbiſhop Tillotſon, Archbiſhop Sharp, Bps Taylor, Stillingfleet, Patrick, Dr. Scott, Dr. Lucas, Sherlock, Stanhope, Mr. Kettlewell, Judge Hale, &c. Francis Hewetſon, Preſbyter of the Church of England. Printed for D. Browne at the Black Swan without Temple bar. price 1 s.

To be Lett or Sold a Pennyworth, a new faſhionable well built Brick Houſe (lately Wm. Cook's, Eſq;) at Barnes in Surrey two Miles nearer London than Richmond, with two Gardens walled round, and well planted with the beſt of Fruit, in which are two Green Houſes with Orange and Myrtle Trees, a Coach-houſe, Stable, Dove Coat, Summer-houſe, Out-houſes, and all other Conveniencies with or without four Acres of Land next to the Gardens. Enquire at the ſaid Houſe, or at the next Door.

The moſt ſafe and profitable Sale of Numerous three Books will be opened at the Golden Crown the upper end of Boy-Street, Covent-Garden, on Friday next, the 28th Inſtant, for the Advantage of all Subſcribers, who will receive Cent. per Cent. for the Monies they advance, as by Propoſals to be had gratis at the place aforeſaid will appear.

On Thurſday the 27th of this Inſtant March, will be Sold by Auction, the Houſhold Goods of Godfrey Wentworth Eſq; Minſtrell and Lady being lately Drown'd; with ſome other Goods of his. To be ſeen this Day and to Morrow at his Dwelling Houſe in Red-Lion-ſtreet, next Door to the Golden Lamb in Ormond ſtreet. A freſh Cloth Bed, and other Beds and Bedding, Peer Glaſſes, and Chimney Glaſſes, with Cabinets, and Screens with Nine fine Red Morocco leather Chairs, and a Dreſſing Glaſs and Pictures, and ſome China and Japan. Noer. The Sale to begin exactly at One a Clock. Note. The Houſe with Coach-Houſe and Stables is to be Lett, and an Organ made by the Paſſ'd Mr. Smith proper for a Chappel or ſmall Church, and a freſh Coach, Chariot and Chaiſe, and a pair of Horſes to be Sold. Catalogues may be had at the ſaid Houſe.

Mr. Paul Girard, at the 3 Flower de Luces, in Charing-Croſs near Northumberland Houſe, hath lately received a Preſent of his in Italy, a ſmall Quantity of very rich Diſtilled Waters, made by Trofime Ribequi, Diſtiller to the Royal Highneſs the Duke of Savoy. Every Ch ſ containing 24 Bottles (3 of which a ſmall Quart) and conſiſts only of the 4 moſt Select Sorts (i. e.) Bergamot, Orange, Bergamot, and Perſico, and are all of a Spirit, and drawn off in the ſame manner as the Citron Water, but much more, which they excel in every Quality, and may be ſeen Day at the Houſe of the ſaid Mr. Paul Girard, and are ſold by in order for a quick Sale only at 3 Guineas per Cheſt. N. B. There hath been none of this ſort in England, except in Preſents, this year paſt.



LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*, where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.